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org / Iowa State University

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

14 MAR 1977

Ms. Evelyn Donkersloot
Features Editor
I.S.U. Daily
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50013

Dear Ms. Donkersloot,

As you have been advised, your undated request, received December 11, 1976, under the Freedom of Information Act is being processed by the Information and Privacy Staff. I would like, nevertheless, to comment on your observation that the relationship between academics and this Agency are a "direct threat to our democratic rights and the principles of academic freedom and integrity."

The Central Intelligence Agency has several kinds of relationships with scholars and scholarly institutions. They include negotiated contracts for scientific research and development, contracts for social science research on the many matters that affect foreign policy, paid and unpaid consultations between scholars and the Agency's research analysts, and other contracts with individuals who have traveled abroad or desire to help us fulfill our primary responsibility: to provide the President and policymakers of our government with the best possible information on and assessments of foreign developments.

We seek the voluntary and witting cooperation of individuals who can help the foreign policy processes of the United States. Those who help are expressing a freedom of choice. Occasionally such relationships are confidential at our request, but more often they are discreet at the scholar's request because of his concern that he will be badgered by those who feel he should not be free to make this particular choice.

None of the relationships are intended to influence either what is taught or any other aspect of a scholar's work. We specifically do not try to inhibit the free search for truth and its free exposition. Indeed, we would be foolish to do so, as it is the truth we seek. We know that we have no monopoly on fact or understanding, and to restrict the search for the truth would be detrimental to our own purposes.

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If CIA were to isolate itself from the good counsel of the best scholars of our country, we would surely become a narrow organization that could only give inferior service to the President as well as the taxpayer. The complexity of international relations today requires that our research be strong, and we intend to keep it strong by seeking the best perspectives from inside and outside the government.

Certainly the government would be less able to act wisely in foreign policy if scholars and universities were to isolate themselves from government or government from the scholars and their universities.

In sum, our problem is to be certain that the relationship of scholars and universities to CIA is not misrepresented or misunderstood. I hope this letter will be helpful in that respect.

Sincerely,

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Andrew T. Falkiewicz
Assistant to the Director
of Central Intelligence

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